

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /081 W
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R 061738Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6303

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GW, WB, VN, VS

SUBJECT: FRG RELATIONS WITH DRV

REFS: (A) BONN 729 (NOTAL); VIENTIANE 265 (NOTAL);
(C) BANGKOK 2259 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRG WILL PROBABLY ESTABLISH MODEST EMBASSY IN
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HANOI. FRG TALKS WITH PRG HAVE COLLAPSED. FONOFF

OFFICIAL ON RECENT VISIT TO HANOI FOUND NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING, INTERESTED IN STABILITY IN SEA, DESIRING WESTERN PRESENCE IN HANOI, BUT ABLE TO OFFER ONLY LIMITED FACILITIES FOR EMBASSIES.

1. ALFRED STEGER, FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SEA, BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER ON RESULTS OF HIS TRIP TO HANOI THE THIRD WEEK OF JANUARY. STEGER SAID HE WENT TO HANOI TO CARRY OUT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRG EMBASSY, TO SEE IF HE COULD DO ANYTHING WITH THE PRG, AND TO HOLD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HE MET AT LENGTH WITH MAI VAN BO, DIRECTOR OF THE SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT IN THE MFA, AND PHAN HIEN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY: NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFERED FRG FOUR OR FIVE ROOMS FOR BOTH CHANCELLERY AND RESIDENCE IN THE REUNIFICATION HOTEL. STEGER BELIEVES ALL WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE OPENED AN EMBASSY IN HANOI SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON HAVE THEIR OFFICES IN THIS HOTEL. HE SAID THE CONDITIONS WERE "AWFUL" BUT THAT THE WESTERNERS HAD Banded TOGETHER AND HAVE A SURPRISINGLY HIGH ESPRIT DE CORPS.

3. STEGER HAS REPORTED THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP TO THE FRG GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL NOW DECIDE WHETHER TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN HANOI. WHILE STEGER WAS RELUCTANT TO ANTICIPATE THE DECISION OF HIS GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY OFFICER RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT FRG WILL DECIDE TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY WITH A SMALL STAFF OF APPROXIMATELY THREE MEN.

4. STEGER SAID THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TOLD HIM THAT THEY DEFINITELY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN BONN. LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL WILL DELAY OPENING. THUS AN FRG-DRV AGREEMENT THAT THE TWO EMBASSIES WOULD BE OPENED SIMULTANEOUSLY WILL BE HONORED MORE IN SPIRIT THAN IN LETTER.

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5. RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM: STEGER SAID THAT FRG-PRG TALKS IN PARIS HAVE COLLAPSED OVER FAILURE TO AGREE ON A COMMUNIQUE. WHILE HE WAS IN HANOI HE SUCCEEDED IN TALKING TOPRG REP. PRG REP REFUSED PERMISSION FOR STEGER TO TRAVEL TO SAIGON. STEGER BELIEVES THAT PRG MFA IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN ASSERTING ITS CONTROL OVER FRG EMBASSY PROPERTY IN SAIGON AND WOULD HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSED BY STEGER'S VISIT THERE. PRG REP SAID THAT

FRG CHARGE IN HANOI COULD VISIT SAIGON ONCE HE HAD ARRIVED. HE ALSO TOLD STEGER THAT FRG COULD EQUIP ITS EMBASSY IN HANOI WITH EQUIPMENT FROM FORMER EMBASSY IN SAIGON.

6. STEGER TELEPHONED FORMER FRG EMBASSY IN SAIGON FROM HIS HOTEL ROOM WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. CARETAKER REPORTED THAT THE CHANCELLERY IS IN GOOD CONDITION BUT THAT THE FORMER RESIDENCE HAS BEEN OCCUPIED AND HE HAS NO ACCESS TO IT. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN HANOI REPORTED THAT ITS EMBASSY IN SAIGON IS IN THE SAME CONDITION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02102

7. TALKS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE: IN TALKS WITH STEGER NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS STRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN HAVING CORRECT RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND WESTERN PRESENCE IN HANOI. THEY WELCOME DEVELOPMENT AID FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING THE US. THEY TOLD STEGER THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY FEEL THE US SHOULD HONOR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY.

8. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE INQUIRED ABOUT THE FRG COMMITMENT OF 40 MILLION DM DEVELOPMENT AID FOR THE NORTH. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE FOR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH GERMAN COMPANIES. STEGER REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION OF DEVELOPMENT AID IS ONE TO BE ADDRESSED IN NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES. ON AID TO THE SOUTH, STEGER ASKED IF NORTH VIETNAM WAS PREPARED TO ASSUME THE DEBTS OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SAID THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE. ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS STEGER REFERRED TO FRG COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN THE SOUTH AND ENCOURAGED THE VIETNAMESE TO REACTIVATE THEM. HE DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION.

9. ON A MORE GENERAL LEVEL STEGER WAS STRUCK BY THE TENDENCY OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS TO SPEAK FOR BOTH THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE. HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THEIR NATIONALISM, THE EMPHASIS THEY PLACED ON THEIR INDEPENDENT STANCE, AND THEIR DESIRE FOR THE RELATIONS WITH THE WEST IN ORDER TO OFFSET THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR AND CHINA.

10. PHAN HIEN SPECIFICALLY TOLD STEGER THAT NORTH VIETNAM DESIRES STABILITY IN SEA. HE CLAIMED THAT NORTH VIETNAM REALIZES THAT IT CAN NOT EXPORT REVOLUTION AND THEREFORE IS NOT SUPPLYING ARMS TO REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN SEA. PHAN HIEN REMARKED POINTEDLY THAT NORTH VIETNAM WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THAILAND.

11. STEGER, WHO SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN PEKING, WAS

IMPRESSED WITH THE RELATIVE OPENNESS HE FOUND IN HANOI.
HE FOUND THE ATOMSPHERE MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN IN
PEKING AND NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS MORE FORTHCOMING
THAN CHINESE. HE ALSO FOUND THE COUNTRY TO BE IN VERY
BAD SHAPE MATERIALLY AND BELIEVES THAT FROM A TECHNICAL
POINT OF VIEW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE A FUNCTIONING
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EMBASSY IN HANOI.

12. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FRG WILL PROCEED TO ESTABLISH
A MODEST EMBASSY IN HANOI.
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